

BUILDING FOR ETERNITY. (To be recited or sung.)

We are building in sorrow and joy,
A temple the world may not see,
Which time cannot wear or destroy;
We build for eternity.

Every thought that we've ever had,
Its own little place has filled;
Every deed we have done, good or bad,
Is a stone in the temple we build.

Every word that so lightly falls,
Giving some heart joy or pain,
Will shine in our temple walls
Or ever its beauty stain.

Are you building for God alone?
Are you building in faith and love
A temple that God will own
In the city of light above?

We are building every day
A temple the world may not see,
Building, building every day,
Building for eternity.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. Mention the names of men and women whose lives have endured, (1) In Missionary Effort—Paul, William Carey, John Hunt, David Livingstone, etc. (2) In Philanthropy—John Howard, Elizabeth Fry, Geo. Peabody, (3) In Temperance Reform—Neal Dow, John B. Gough, Frances Willard; (4) In Evangelism—Chas. G. Fumey, D. L. Moody.

2. What were the qualities in these men that made their influence so lasting?
(1) Unselfishness; (2) Consecration;
(3) Zeal, etc.

3. Show how these lives were influenced by Christ. (1) They labored for his sake and for the extension of his cause; (2) They were inspired by his noble example; (3) They laid their trophies at his feet.

QUESTION SPURS.

1. What is there in the lives of these great men that will be helpful to us?
2. Is it necessary to be prominent in order to live a life that will endure?
3. Give some instances of people who walked in humble paths, and yet who lived lives that endured.
4. In what way can we build on Christ in the formation of character?

PROGRAMME.

1. Hymn No. 27, Canadian Hymnal.
2. Brief prayer, with Lord's Prayer.
3. Bible Light. (Give one passage of Scripture to each of five persons, and ask them to read the verses and add a brief comment of their own.)
4. Hymn No. 138 in Canadian Hymnal.
5. Quotations. (One of each of three persons. Have the members previously look up appropriate quotations and repeat them.)
6. "Building for Eternity"—Recitation or song.
7. Practical Suggestions. (Let the leader ask these questions or others similar, and call for answers from the members. Everybody should be encouraged to take part in this exercise. The Roll Call might be combined with this part of the programme, having the members respond to their names by telling about some enduring life that had been a help to them in their own spiritual experience.)
8. Hymn No. 28 in Canadian Hymnal.
9. The pastor's five minutes. Summing up the practical applications of the topic, with perhaps an appeal to the associate members to begin to live the enduring life.

APRIL 8.—"OUR PLEDGE AND HOW TO KEEP IT."

Matt. 28, 20; Eccl. 5, 1-17; Psa. 51, 6.

HOME READINGS.

- Mon., Apr. 2.—Keeping the Pledge by trust. Ps. 118, 1-9.
Tues., Apr. 3.—Keeping it by striving. Luke 13, 23-30.
Wed., Apr. 4.—Keeping it by the Bible. Acts 17, 10-12.
Thurs., Apr. 5.—Keeping it by prayer. Luke 18, 1-8.
Fri., Apr. 6.—Keeping it by testimony. Matt. 10, 32-39.
Sat., Apr. 7.—Keeping it by giving. Mark 12, 41-44.

One of the most heroic things in the world is a pledge. A pledge is a man striking hands with an ideal. A pledge is the focus of character upon action. A pledge is concentrated will.

Since this is so, it is not strange that all society is built upon pledges. Armies would dissolve, governments would fall, the world of commerce and finance would vanish into mist, the home would be a dream of the past, were it not for confidence in promises. From the cradle to the grave, we live upon covenants. We may not recognize them, but that is only because we do not stop to think.

Suitably—inevitably, indeed—the entrance to the Church of Christ is always

It is an encouraging sign of the times that, during the past few months there has been an unusual demand for the leaflet: "How to Organize an Epworth League." A new and revised edition has been prepared, which will be sent to any address, free of charge. : : : : :

a covenant. We stand before men and publicly take Christ for ours and yield ourselves to Christ. This we covenant with Christ and Christ's people. It is inevitable, therefore, that our Christian Endeavor Society, which is a training school for the Church, should magnify this matter of covenants.

No better service could be done the Church and the world than precisely this training in covenant-keeping that the society supplies. What is needed, above everything else, in all the relations of life, is that men live true—to obligations, loyal to duty.

"One of the sublimest things in the world," declared Bulwer Lytton, "is plain truth." Yes, and therefore one of the most ignoble and disheartening things in the world is a lie. By as much as success in our insistence on our pledge is splendidly useful, carelessness in regard to it is deplorable, ruinous. "Better not to vow at all, than to vow and not pay." If one does not vow at all, that may mean only that conscience has not been moved; but if one vows and is untrue, that means that we are false to an aroused and intelligent conscience—and that falseness is the most deadly disease of the soul.

The way to keep a pledge is—simply to keep it. Keep it in the spirit. Keep it in the letter. Keep it rejoicingly, hilariously, ungrudgingly. Keep it abundantly, heaping up the measures of performance. Keep it all the time. Have no

thought of not keeping it. Be loyal to it, through and through.

When pledges are kept in this way they strengthen and ennoble the one that keeps them as no half-hearted performance ever could. Indeed, I question whether a pledge kept in a reluctant spirit is kept at all. As Shakespeare says of reading:

"No profit goes where there's no pleasure taken."

It does little good to be continually belaboring a sluggish conscience and a scowling will.

But serving God with a song! Bounding on the way of His commandments! "Rising up early" to do God's will, as the old patriarchs had! There is health in that and joy and triumph. Such living makes us truly partners with Christ, whose meat it was and is, to do the will of the Father. So may it be always with us.—Amos R. Wells.

BIBLE LIGHT.

1. Matt. 28, 20. "Lo I am with you always." The abiding presence of the Master ought to be the greatest inspiration in helping us to keep the obligations of the pledge. When we repeat the words: "Taking Christ as my example," we do not look at a merely historic Saviour, who passed away many years ago, but at a living, interceding Christ who helps us to-day.

2. Eccl. 5, 4. "When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it." The sense of obligation should be strongly impressed. To take a vow and never think of it again cannot but be harmful, but there is no need of doing this. An honest effort to pay the vow will bring a blessing.

3. Ps. 51, 6. "Behold thou desirest truth in the inward parts." The outward forms of duty will not press hard upon us if our hearts are right with God. If our hearts are kept with all diligence, there will be little difficulty in doing gladly all that the pledge involves.

HINTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

HOW IT HELPS.

Experience has shown that the Pledge is an element of strength, when an honest and sincere effort is made to keep it.

1. It helps the society by transforming its members from drones into active workers. The societies that have adopted the pledge and tried to keep it have grown in numbers, helpfulness and usefulness.

2. It helps Christ's cause by stimulating many of His followers to faithful service.

3. It helps us, by strengthening in the time of moral weakness—reminding us of the obligations we have taken upon us.

4. Unfaithfulness works great harm. To vow and then make no effort to pay, weakens moral strength. Shall we then decline to vow? By no means. Let us seek to live out our lives up to the level of our pledge.

HOW TO KEEP IT.

1. Members should understand clearly the obligations of the pledge before taking it. It never should be subvented to lightly or carelessly, but reverently, solemnly, and in the fear of God.

2. The key of the pledge hangs at the door. "Taking Christ as my Example, and trusting in the help of the Holy Spirit." Here is the source of strength and of faithful continuance in well doing.

QUOTATIONS.

The pledge was at first adopted because of the necessity of the case. The very object of the society was to bring back the young people from frivolity and carelessness to the earnest service of Christ, and the pledge was adopted as the most effective way to secure these results, be-